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MAJOR NEWS EVENTS

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CRISIS IN LEBANON

KING FAHD DEMANDS FIRMER ACTION BY MAJOR POWERS

King Fahd has called on the United States to exert more effort to stop the massacre being carried out in Lebanon by the Zionist forces.

King Fahd said the Lebanese situation demanded firmer action by the major powers to "contain the catastrophe."

"Israel is seeking to liquidate the Palestinian cause and silence the voice of Palestine, but it will not attain its goal because the Palestinians have a just cause and the whole world is fully aware of it," the Saudi Monarch added.

He said "we are preoccupied with recovering stability and normal life in Lebanon and guaranteeing Palestinian rights."

"An effective Arab move demands unity because the Arab nation is passing through a very dangerous phase and we should all forget our personal differences and shoulder our responsibility towards the catastrophe," King Fahd added.

SAUDI NEWSPAPER URGES ARAB COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW KINGDOM'S POLICY

A Saudi newspaper urged the Arab countries to follow the Kingdom's policy in pursuing an honorable settlement both for Lebanon and the Palestine Commando Movement.

Okaz, published in Jeddah, said in an editorial that the major Arab countries, headed by Saudi Arabia, had no time to spare for meetings consecrating Arab divisions or resulting in the usual statements. The paper was referring to calls for an Arab summit to discuss Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Okaz went on, "if the Arabs really want to achieve a just and honorable settlement" they should seek Lebanese national reconciliation, enabling the legiti-

mate authorities to recover full sovereignty in the country.

They should also join in "extracting international recognition, especially by Western Europe, of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," it said.

It added that other steps included "backing efforts undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the superpowers."

The paper also urged full support for the Palestinians and the Lebanese people in West Beirut and to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war "which benefits only the enemies of the Arab nation, notably the Zionists."

* * *

Another call to support the Saudi role came from Lebanon's permanent U.N. delegate, Ghassan Tueini, in an interview published by the same paper.

Mr. Tueini was quoted as saying the Arab countries should "back the effective Saudi role if they want to face the dangers surrounding them."

The Lebanese ambassador said Saudi moves illustrated the Arabs' "aspiration for a comprehensive settlement for the problem."

FINANCE

IDB CONCLUDES 75th SESSION

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) concluded its 75th session by approving loans for four projects in member states.

The session, which was chaired by the bank's president Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali also discussed issues related to the IDB activities.

The bank approved a loan of \$872,000 to finance a project for pipes industry in Indonesia and another loan of \$1.11 million for Cameroon to aid a technical survey on forestry in the country. It also granted \$1.8 million to Upper Volta as a technical aid and another loan of \$700,000 for Sri Lanka to finance a scholarship program at an Islamic university in the country.

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NEWS BRIEF

SAUDI COMPANY AWARDED DAM CONTRACT

A contract valued at \$2.35 million (SR 8 million) has been awarded to a national company to build a dam at Quraina village, northeast of Riyadh.

The dam, 70 meters long and 8 meters high, will have a storing capacity of 25,000 cubic meters.

It will accumulate rain water from a 20 square kms area and be completed within 12 months.

The contract, signed by Agriculture and Water Resources Minister Dr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Sheikh, also provides for building a power generating station.

TAIF AGREEMENT

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have signed an agreement to settle long-standing issues related to Saudi property on the Kuwaiti side of the Neutral Zone between the two countries.

The accord known as the "Taif Agreement" was signed by the Kuwaiti Cabinet Secretary-General Abdul Aziz Al-Oteibi.

The two countries had signed three similar agreements during the last 16 years dealing with the Kingdom's property on the Kuwaiti side of the zone.

SOLAR NAVIGATIONAL AID TO BE INSTALLED AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Two solar-powered navigational aid systems will soon be installed at King Abdul Aziz International Airport by the Saudi Solar Corporation.

Arab News, published in Jeddah, quoted the company's marketing manager as saying that the company plans to import the basic material from the United States, and assemble the equipment locally, which might cut down shipping costs considerably.

"Our main efforts are to find out possible ways to supply solar equipment to the Kingdom in an inexpensive way. It could be successfully employed for navigational aids, communication systems, water pumping, lighting for remote areas, water heating for hospitals, hotels and student hostels, and air conditioning and refrigeration in remote areas.

SAUDI FERTILIZER PRODUCTION UP

The Saudi Arabian Fertilizer Company (SAFCO) produced 342,289 metric tons of urea in 1981, a statistical bulletin said.

SAFCO's efforts to improve production has helped increase its profits to \$58.8 million (SR 220 million) during the year, the bulletin added.

The bulletin said the company was now using 40 million cubic feet of natural gas daily as a raw material for urea production and has participated in many similar petrochemical projects.

SAFCO complex includes an ammonia plant with daily production of 600 tons of liquified ammonia, a urea plant with daily output of 1,000 tons and a sulphuric acid plant producing 3200 tons per day.

OFFICIAL VISITS

KING FAHD HAS RECEIVED CHAD'S COMMERCE AND ECONOMY MINISTER ALI SALEM AND THE CHADIAN PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY KARIM AHMED. The audience was attended by the Second Deputy Premier and Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan and Public Works and Housing Minister Prince Miteb.

KING FAHD HAS RECEIVED TANZANIAN VICE-PRESIDENT ABDOU JUMBE who offered his country's condolences on the death of King Khalid. The audience was attended by the Second Deputy Premier and Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan.

KING FAHD RECEIVED SHEIKH SAHEEN BIN HAMAD AL-THANI, brother of the Qatari ruler.

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FOUR NEW SHIPS ADDED TO SAUDI NATIONAL SHIPPING COMPANY'S FLEET

Four new vessels will join the Saudi National Shipping Company's fleet shortly, Saudi Communications Minister Hussein Mansouri said.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Mr. Mansouri said the four ships which cost \$24 million would ferry about 30 percent of the Kingdom's 28 million tons of imports.

He described the Kingdom's accomplishments in the shipping sector as "big and an attempt to end the monopoly of foreign states in this domain."

The Communications Minister said Saudi Arabia had decided to increase its shipping fleet and enhance co-operation with Islamic and Arab states to "achieve the Kingdom's desired goal in this field." The Kingdom was making full use of studies conducted by International Maritime Organizations and benefiting from its agreements with Arab and Islamic states.

Mr. Mansouri said the Kingdom has provided funds to help establish 70 national shipping companies. Commenting on the Kingdom's contribution to Arab and Islamic cooperation in the shipping sector, he said "the Kingdom holds 19 percent of shares in the United Arab Shipping Company, set up with a capital of 500 million Kuwaiti Dinars. Moreover, the Kingdom owns ships of the company's total fleet of 60 vessels," he added.

The Communications Minister said the Kingdom had agreed to participate with a number of Arab states in setting up an Arab oil shipping company with a capital of \$500 million and a freight capacity of 2.5 million tons. Mr. Mansouri said the formation of Association of Islamic Shipping Companies was the outcome of the Kingdom's efforts.

The third Islamic summit conference held in Taif last year had endorsed the setting up of the association. He added that the association would be based in Jeddah.

OIL REPORT

APICORP'S CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCES HIGHER PROFITS IN 1981

Arab News quoted the chairman of the Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation (APICORP) board of directors Jamal Hasan Jawa as saying that APICORP has a 51 percent increase in annual net profit in 1981 over 1980. He declared that \$17.6 million (SR 60 million) will be divided among shareholders.

In light of current changes in consumption of oil and their impact on the production policies and consequently the revenues of oil exporters, Mr. Jawa said "it would be prudent for Arab countries to develop their own petrochemical industries."

At the same time, they should improve the technologies of such industries to raise their performance to the highest possible level, he added.

Mr. Jawa called for coordination of marketing policies at regional and international levels so that downstream production "gradually replaces the exports of crude oil and natural gas in a manner that will increase the value added to the oil and gas produced.

"This goal will be achieved by constructive cooperation in launching joint ventures within the Arab world or between its countries and those of the third world," he added.

Mr. Jawa said APICORP had plans to maintain a priority of identifying and implementing national, regional and joint Arab ventures to "optimize the integration of Arab economies."

During 1980-81 APICORP increased its fully paid-up

capital from about \$350 million to \$400 million. Total revenue in 1981 amounted to \$57.8 million (SR \$196.6 million) against \$39.2 million (SR 133.3 million) in 1980, an increase of 48 percent.

The company's net profit for 1981 was \$48 million (SR 163.6 million) compared with \$31.9 million (SR 108.5 million) in 1980, an increase of 51 percent.

NEW OIL PROCESSING AGREEMENTS

The Jeddah oil refinery has signed two processing agreements with foreign companies for a total of 130,000 barrels per day (BPD) of refined products, Arab News, published in Jeddah, reported. The first contract was awarded to Petrola of Greece, which is to process 92,000 BPD at its refinery in Alafsis, Greece, for a period of ten months.

Under the second award, Saras of Italy will process 38,000 BPD at a refinery in Sarrosh, Italy.

A senior refinery official said the processing agreements were designed to supplement the output of the Jeddah refinery, which is able to meet only about a third of the western region's demand.

"But the coming on stream of the Yanbu domestic refinery early next year has already cut imports of refined products," he added.

The contracts signed in Riyadh were for shorter periods and involved lower quantities than previous processing agreements, the paper said.

Earlier this year, Exxon Europe, Saras and Petrola were supplying a total of 150,000 BPD to the Jeddah refinery under contracts that expired.

JOINT PROGRAMS

HOSPITAL... BRITAIN

A British-Saudi joint venture company has received a letter of intent from the Saudi Ministry of Health for basic design and construction of a \$62.4 million (SR 212.6 million) hospital in the old city of Jubail, a Saudi weekly reported.

The Jeddah-based Saudi Business said the contract, if finalized as expected, would be the British-Saudi Joint Venture Laing Wimpey Alireza (LWA) Company's third major hospital project in Saudi Arabia. Contracts for 100-bed hospitals at Al-Bukhairiyah and Al-Midhnaab were won by LWA last year.

According to initial studies, the Jubail medical complex will feature a 150-bed general hospital on 20,000 square meters with two floors. On the ground floor will be located the emergency and x-ray rooms, a blood bank and several clinics. Facilities on the first floor will include intensive maternity ward and a garden patio.

Next to the hospital itself, preliminary designs specify

four auxiliary buildings that will house a garage, laundry room, a workshop, storage space and sewage treatment plant. Hospital staff will be accommodated in 14 separate housing units of varying sizes.

A two-story recreation center including swimming pool, a tennis court, library and restaurant will complement the complex's residential attractions.

Detailed designs for the complex are now being carried out by the British firm John Laing Designing and Associates.

MAPPING THE RED SEA... FINLAND

A Saudi-Finnish Venture, Georeda, given the task of mapping the Red Sea and South Channel at Yanbu, has set up one of the most sophisticated sea chart printing centers in the Middle East at a cost of \$8.8 million (SR 30 million), a Saudi weekly magazine reported.

The Georeda's Managing Director Sheikh Ali Murad Reda told the magazine "this is the first sea chart center owned by a private company in the world."

The charts, giving full features of the Red Sea coastline, will be printed in both Arabic and English. They will provide a navigational guide giving correct information to shippers about the nature of the sea coast.

FINANCE . . . IDB Concludes 75th Session

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A press statement issued by the bank said that, since the beginning of this year, the bank had financed 16 foreign trade deals amounting to \$243.4 million and 38 projects costing \$199.3 million.

The statement said the bank at its previous meeting in Turkey last month had approved loans totalling \$48.98 million to finance development projects in some Islamic countries.

The loans included \$2 million for Tunisia to import sulphur from Saudi Arabia, \$20 million for Syria to finance its crude oil imports, \$6 million for the Maldives to purchase six fishing boats and \$8.5 million for a Qatari company to finance the purchase of an animal container.

IDB LENDS \$11.5 MILLION TO MOROCCAN BANK

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) granted a loan of \$11.5 million to a Moroccan bank to finance small and medium industries in Morocco.

The loan agreement was signed by IDB President Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Ali and Moroccan National Bank for Economic Development General Manager Abdul Kadir Bin Suleiman.

News Briefs

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SAUDI TEACHERS ASSIGNED TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Sixty-nine Saudi teachers will be sent to Arab, Islamic and friendly countries, according to Education Minister Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Khuweiter.

Twenty-eight teachers will go to Oman, fifteen to the United Arab Emirates, seven to Algeria, four each to Bahrain and Malaysia, three to Nigeria, two each to Mauritania and the Comoro Islands and one each to the Philippines, France, Venezuela and the Maldives Islands.

The new group brings to 505 the total number of Saudi teachers sent abroad.

NEW HEALTH CENTER AT KING ABDULAZIZ UNIVERSITY

A \$100 million (SR 340 million) contract was signed by Jeddah's King Abdulaziz University with Daniel International Saudi Arabia Ltd. for management and supervision of the university's health services center project.

The Jeddah-based Saudi Gazette quoted University President Dr. Abdul Naseef as saying the center would occupy 1.25 million square meters and include an 800-bed hospital.

The center is expected to cost over \$1.8 billion (SR 6 billion) with an enrollment of about 3,500 students in the medical school.

An official in the Campus Development Office said plans for the hospital were in the advanced stage of design and that the bidding process for the center would begin by early 1983. Bidding for the hospital will begin a year after that and the whole center is expected to be finished in six years, he added.

Earlier, it was announced that design and engineering services for the center had been contracted to Henningson, Durham and Richardson of Alexandria, Virginia.

The Campus Development Office says there have been substantial changes in the master-plan, taking into account the Kingdom's rule to universities not to refuse admission to any prospective student.

He said the new student hostels and faculty complex had been recently completed and that bids had been invited for their service facilities.

For his part, Dr. Naseef said the master-plan envisaged enrollment of 50,000 students and should be completed in about seven years.

The new campus will be built north of the university on an area of 5 billion square meters and is expected to cost \$5.6 billion (SR 19 billion).

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